

## Message Text

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17/14

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 EB-11 AID-20 DRC-01

/192 W

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R 270415Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7760

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 13955

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JA, BG

SUBJECT: PM RAHMAN VISIT TO JAPAN

REF: TOKYO 13895

SUMMARY: BANGLADESH PM RAHMAN COMPLETED HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO JAPAN OCT 18-24 ENHANCING TIES BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. DURING TALKS WITH GOJ RAHMAN EMPHASIZED BANGLADESH'S NON-ALIGNMENT, ITS DESIRE FOR CLOSER TIES WITH SE ASIA, AS WELL AS DESIRE FOR CLOSER RELATIONS WITH JAPAN. GOJ ALSO SATISFIED VISIT ADVANCED ITS OBJECTIVES AS ASIAN LEADER. FONOFF INTERESTED IN PAKISTAN'S AND USG REACTION TO VISIT. END SUMMARY.

1. BANGLADESH PM SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN VISITED JAPAN OCTOBER 18-24 STRENGTHENING FRIENDLY TIES  
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BETWEEN JAPAN AND BANGLADESH. IN TALKS WITH GOJ

(AS FONOFF SW ASIA DEP HEAD YOSHIDA INFORMED EMBOFF)  
AND IN PUBLIC FORA, RAHMAN EMPHASIZED BANGLADESH'S  
POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT AND NEUTRALITY. HE ACK-  
NOWLEDGED CLOSE TIES WITH INDIA AND USSR BUT STRESSED  
BANGLADESH'S DESIRE FOR FRIENDLY TIES WITH ALL  
COUNTRIES, INCLUDING PRC, BUT ESPECIALLY SE ASIAN  
COUNTRIES. YOSHIDA SAID RAHMAN, IN TALKS WITH PM  
TANAKA, DID NOT CRITICIZE PRC OR BRING UP SOVIET  
ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY SCHEME.

2. FONOFF VERY PLEASED WITH VISIT AND WITH BREAK-  
THROUGH ON LOAN TERMS. YOSHIDA SAID LOW 1.875 PERCENT  
INTEREST, AND OTHER TERMS OF REPAYMENT (REFTTEL) WERE  
SIGNIFICANT FONOFF VICTORY OVER MINISTRY OF FINANCE  
AND BUDGET BUREAU. JAPANESE WATCHING CLOSELY  
PAKISTAN'S REACTION TO DEVELOPMENT OF FREIENDLY TIES  
BETWEEN JAPAN AND BANGLADESH. GOJ ALSO INTERESTED  
IN USG ATTITUDE TOWARD CLOSER BDG-GOJ TIES.

3. COMMENT: RAHMAN VISIT PROVIDED GOJ A WELCOME  
OPPORTUNITY TO STRENGTHEN ITS ASIAN LEADERSHIP  
ROLE. WE INFER FROM RAHMAN'S EMPHASIS THROUGHOUT  
VISIT ON DESIRE TO STRENGTHEN TIES WITH SE ASIANS,  
AS WELL AS WITH JAPAN, THAT HE ENVISIONS BROADER  
ASIAN RELATIONS AS COUNTERWEIGHT TO BANGLADESH'S HEAVY  
DEPENDENCE ON INDIA AND USSR.  
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